

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, January 13th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

Members Present: Chairman Karin Nelson, Al Hoch, Ginny Gassman, Amy Lindamood, Bev Nelson, Scott Bartlett

Others Present: Rebecca Hanson, Bob Paterson (AB Aquatics), Walter Johnson

Members Absent: Dave Joyce, Paul Ardito, Tracy Waterman

The meeting began at 8:30 AM.

Agenda:

1. Minutes: Al moved to accept the minutes of 12/9, which was seconded by Bev and passed unanimously
2. SLA – Rebecca: Rebecca reported a great year on Squam Lake; they pulled half as much milfoil as last year because there was less to pull. Not using the DASH in the big lake, just using it at the dam. They were less efficient in removal because they had less milfoil. The Chinese mystery snail was found in Squam Lake. There is not much to do about it, but it has lower impact than milfoil.

Chinese Mystery Snail is stinky when it rots. It looks something like escargot. It can out-compete other shellfish species. It is easy to remove but hard to get all of them because of their microscopic stage. The DES has a structure to manage it, but since it is an animal, the Department of Fish and Game is in charge.

Rebecca has scheduled weed watcher mornings every Saturday from 9-11 am, June through August. They have kayaks and a big boat. This is to try to bump up the reporting and to increase the number of weed watchers on Squam.

Rebecca talked about the SLA Internship program. It is funded through the membership. They hire eight interns who get scuba and weed control training, and \$500 of travel, food reimbursed, and housing. They are not paid, but the program spends \$3800 per intern. Interns come from all over the country and the program also usually gets some locals. They send divers out five days a week, which is 50% of the work. The program started in 2012. There have been thirty-two kids through the program so far. The SLA hires one seasonal intern manager. Some interns get college credit and paid through their university.

Scott asked how we should handle aquatic animals. Bev suggested the question go through the conservation commission. It is in the weed watcher training to look for the animals. There is a movement at the conservation commission to discuss the invasive

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plants. The committee will be vigilant while surveying and perhaps in the future take action.

3. Budget/BOS status: We went over budget by \$2K. BOS gave approval to spend the additional money. Karin attended the budget planning meeting and explained that we want to get \$225K next year and why the costs are going up. Also that we are due to get the DES grant. Subject to the budget hearing (Feb 4th) the BOS has agreed to approve the \$225K.
4. AB Aquatics 3-yr contract status: Bob Patterson sent their bid to DES. The DASH day rate was changed to \$1197 (\$28 reduction) and \$1705 is the combined rate with two divers on one boat with suction hoses. Bob will put a provision in the contract for the hand pulling (no hose) rate in case it is an option that is used. In the contract there will be reference to OSHA compliance.

Scott moved that we accept the bid and move forward with contract execution with the town, seconded by Ginny and approved unanimously. (Al Hoch recused himself due to his position oat AB Aquatics.)

5. ACT bid follow-up-
ACT is merging with another company and they are now called Solitude. Karin emailed them that we are fine with their contract and we only want to do two treatments in 2016.
6. DES: 2016 grants: Amy emailed and said she hoping for a 40% match grant, which may be approximately \$80K. Generally funds are received late summer.
7. Town meeting plans: The committee discussed a plan for an educational display with the conservation commission. Ginny and Bev will work on handouts/displays as follows:
 - Drain and dry (Bev. To ask)
 - Fertilizer handout (Ginny to print out)
 - Ask volunteers (Ginny to make handout: lake host and weed watcher)
 - Native Plant info (Bev)

In addition, the committee discussed letters to the editor in advance of town meeting: Scott to do draft of a letter to editor.

8. Marker coordination: The committee discussed how we can coordinate getting markers out a few days in advance of harvesting. We would like markers around patches of milfoil with as complete coverage as possible so that harvesting can be efficient.

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Karin will organize making markers. We need to make about 150.

9. Volunteer recruitment plan: We discussed working volunteer recruitment starting with the town meeting, the spring tax letter, and attending association meetings.

Karin suggested we could send a request to all weed watchers, the milfoil interest list, and the lake host list to ask for association info, and association contact info. Karin could then send a message to the associations.

ACTION ITEMS:

A21: Karin will discuss further with Amy, in order to have a program in shallow water for harvesting. Status: ongoing. Latest update: Bob Paterson said he would follow up on shallow water pulling.

A35: Ginny will ask Bill G. to make graphs of historical data for the web site. Ongoing

A42: Ginny to add to the Activities List: submit people to be invited to the volunteer luncheon in August.

A43: The committee will work on how to have weed watchers indicate milfoil with markers – ongoing

A46: Ginny is to put Al's maps on the archival server at the town hall – ongoing

A48: Amy L. will send an email to Bob Wolff to see if there has been any progress on whether the notice language can be changed. – ongoing

A50: Ginny to talk to Alison about how to link about the fertilizer use info to web the site. – ongoing.

A51: Ginny to draft a letter to the editor re: fertilizer. Spring. (Also for native plants.)

A52: Amy L. to get clarification from the Dept. of Agriculture on why so much sampling was done without notice. Ongoing

A53: Ginny and Bev to work on handouts for the town meeting.

A54: Scott to do a draft letter to the editor in advance of the town meeting.

A55: Karin will organize making 150 markers.

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III. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th, 2016 at 8:30 AM at the Moultonborough Public Library

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman

DRAFT